

College of Saint Mary

Rule 20 Section 1

Institution and Educator Preparation Program Contextual Information

1a. Institutional background

College of Saint Mary is a Catholic university providing access to education for women in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership. Consistent with the works, values and aspirations of the Sisters of Mercy, this mission inspires us to: Academic excellence, scholarship and lifelong learning; Respect for the dignity of each person; Development of mind, body and spirit; and, Commitment to compassionate service.

College of Saint Mary has approximately 1,000 students in both undergraduate and graduate programs. College of Saint Mary opened in 1923. The campus is located in the heart of Omaha and was relocated to this site in 1955. The median undergraduate age of our students is 22, with many students transferring to CSM from other institutions. College of Saint Mary has a student to faculty ratio of ten to one.

CSM offers 22 programs of study, six master degree programs and two doctoral degrees. The college offers affordable degree programs across a wide spectrum of today's leading fields such as nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, business with an emphasis on analytics and strategic communication, legal studies, undergraduate teacher education, a Master of Arts in Teaching for those who are changing careers, a Master of Science in Education for those who are already certified teachers and more. The college strives to provide a solid liberal arts education foundation for these majors with opportunities to study the fine and performing arts as well.

Our signature Mothers Living & Learning program is renowned for making a difference in the lives of single women. CSM is where they can attend college to earn their degrees and gain the college experience while living on campus with their children. Approximately 4% of our students are part of the program.

As part of our Mercy mission, we are dedicated to service-learning opportunities that help women develop a greater sense of self and self-worth and a confidence that they can take out into the world to make a difference for all. Last year 475 College of Saint Mary students completed 10,000 hours of service work and volunteered at 25 non-profits. Several unique service learning programs are integrated in the Teacher Education program. Crestview Homework Club engages students in serving children from diverse backgrounds and helping them through tutoring. Operation S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, And Relevant Technology) is a joint venture between Girls, Inc. of Omaha and College of Saint Mary. Within Operation S.M.A.R.T., first through sixth grade girls from Girls, Inc. come to the campus in an after-school program twice a week for instructional activities that emphasize "hands-on" natural and social science, math and technology as well as addressing gender equity. Finally, L.I.F.E. (Literacy Influences Future Experiences) is a field experience in both Teaching Reading and Reading Diagnosis and Assessment. Students enrolled in these courses provide instruction to Kindergarten through eighth grade learners in reading literacy and diagnose and assess learners' performances at local schools with diverse populations.

1b. Endorsement programs

The Teacher Education Program at College of Saint Mary offers ten field endorsements, six subject endorsement and four supplemental endorsements for total of 20 endorsement programs:

Initial Endorsements – Field

- Art K-12
- BMIT-Business, Marketing & Information Technology 6-12
- Early Childhood Inclusive B-3
- Elementary Education K-6
- English Language Arts 7-12
- Health & Physical Education PK-12
- Mathematics 6-12
- Middle Grades Education 4-9
 - Art
 - Business Education
 - Foreign/World Language - Spanish
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Natural Sciences
 - Social Science
- Science 7-12
- Social Science 7-12

Initial Endorsements – Subject

- Biology 7-12
- Chemistry 7-12
- Religious Education K-12
- Secondary English 7-12
- Special Education K-6 & 7-12
- World Languages-Spanish 7-12

Supplemental Endorsements

- Coaching 7-12
- Early Childhood Education PK-3
- English as a Second Language PK-12
- Reading and Writing 7-12

1c. Significant program changes since the last state approval

- Use of NDE Clinical Practice Evaluation
- CSM Student Outcomes aligned with the InTASC standards
- The Case Study project was developed to provide an authentic assessment tool in addition to the clinical evaluation. This additional tool provides opportunity to use multiple measures of student performance in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating students. Students complete the case study during Clinical Practice.
- The standard lesson plan template used by the program for many years was revised to two formats: a Lesson Plan with Analysis and Lesson Plan with Reflection
- The requirement that all teacher education students must pass the Praxis II content exam for certification has had an impact on the Teacher Education program. Teacher Preparation faculty have collaborated with content area faculty to ensure that course content is consistent with the content of the exam.
- Teacher Preparation Faculty keep directors of secondary content areas informed of changes in endorsement requirements. Decisions have been made in collaboration between the content area program director and Teacher Preparation Faculty. Shared advising of students by content program faculty and Teacher Preparation Faculty ensures that students complete all requirements for both programs.
- Continual work on dispositional reflection by all individual Teacher Education candidates as well as faculty input on dispositions from across the coursework prior to clinical practice.
- Short and long form field experience evaluations have been adopted. The long form evaluation reflects standards used in the NDE Clinical Practice evaluation and also addresses professional characteristics/dispositions.
- Clinical Practice application includes disposition reflection and assessment of strengths and weakness in dispositional areas.

1d. Anticipated program and/or endorsement changes

- Middle grades endorsement offering only Math, Social Science, Science and Language Arts in keeping with new NDE guidelines for 2016-17
- Added Reading and Writing K-6 supplemental endorsement at both undergraduate and master's level
- Use of NDE clinical practice evaluation with added Standard 12: Professional Dispositions
- Consideration of adding NDE disposition standards to all teacher education course syllabi